

Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Community Focus Group: Samaritan Neighborhood Center
Held at the Samaritan Neighborhood Center (First Baptist Church)
Oakland, California
May 30, 2008

NOTE: This focus group was made up of students from the West Oakland and San Francisco areas. Their age range fell between 13 and 20. Questions 13 and 14 were not asked of this group.

Question 1

1. Which of the following strategies should be a higher priority?	
A. Spending transportation funds to maintain the existing system of roads and the existing bus, rail and ferry services in the region	0
B. Spending transportation funds to build new roads and add more bus, rail and ferry services in the region	15

Comments:

I picked B because certain buses run to different spots I don't need. I want new buses to run to more and better places. I want buses to run longer, too. I don't like to walk home.

I picked B because if you get more buses, more will run, which is good.

I picked B because old buses break down or don't come. I want new buses.

Question 2

2. How much of the \$30 billion dollar budget should be spent on maintaining local streets and roads, state highways, and public transit systems?	
A. Up to 25% (\$7.5 billion)	5
B. Up to 50% (\$15 billion)	7
C. Up to 75% (\$22.5 billion)	3
D. 100% (\$30 billion)	0

Comments:

I picked A because if you aren't spending a lot of money on the old stuff, you can buy more new stuff.

I want A so that I can spend money on new stuff.

I picked B because you don't want to just throw away old stuff, but I still want some new stuff.

I picked C because stuff is expensive now. If you fix the buses and streets it will cost a lot. There is a need.

Question 3

3. If you didn't spend all \$30 billion dollars on maintenance projects, where would you spend the rest of the funds?

Comments:

Newer buses

Clean up buses. Take out the carpet in the seat. Make the buses safer.

Save the rest of the money to use in the future. Keep the buses running and make them clean.

Rebuild the bus stops.

Add schedules to bus stops.

Make transit free or lower fares.

Make taxi costs lower.

Put money in bank and let money build up.

Question 4

4. Which of the following projects should be a higher investment priority for the region's transportation system?	
A. Spending transportation funds on the highway system to relieve traffic congestion, including ramp metering, high-occupancy toll lanes, etc.	12
B. Spending transportation funds on public transit options, including rail and buses to provide alternatives to driving	3
C. Spending transportation funds on walking paths and bicycle lanes to provide alternatives to driving	0

Comments:

I picked A because when you are on the freeway you need to go somewhere.

A, add more lanes.

I picked B because we need to get people out of the cars, we should always have buses. Some people can't walk and so we need the buses. I want people to get people out of cars to help global warming.

I want A because we need more freeway lanes to reduce traffic.

I put A because I am late to school today because of traffic on the highways.

I picked B because of the previous reason....

Question 5

5. What's the one improvement that could be made to public transportation that would increase ridership?
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Comments:

Lower fares.

Commercials for lower fares. Commercials on lower fares will help people know the fares are lower.

Make transfers longer.

Commercials to advertise buses, so that people know the buses in their area.

Put a radio on the bus for music in the morning.

Let people know that riding the bus helps save the earth.

Have buses come to people's house.

Have a certain bus that takes people to and from school.

Question 6

6. Which of the following should be a higher priority?	
A. Providing more transportation funds to communities that are planning to build more housing along BART and other public transit lines	1
B. Providing transportation funds evenly to communities regardless of where they are planning to build homes	14

Comments:

I want A because Oakland needs it. People walk around the streets. If they are closer to transit, it would be better.

I said B because every city should be even. They all should get the same amount of money.

I said B because other cities might need the money for things other than building close to transit.

I picked B because picking one over the other, it will be a problem, resentment.

I picked B because the noise by BART is extremely bad.

Question 7

7. Do you agree or disagree with this statement: <i>"There should be a subsidy for low-income riders."</i>	
A. Strongly Agree	6
B. Agree	3
C. Neutral	4
D. Disagree	2
E. Strongly Disagree	0

Comments:

I agree it's not fair for low-income people to pay the same as people who have more money. Some people have little or no money...they may have 30 cents, not 80 cents. They should use a sliding scale to pay and transfers should be free.

I agree. Young people don't have jobs and need help.

I agree. I am older (20), but still want lower fares.

I don't think that low-income people should get a lower fare. It's an excuse. Everyone should be able to get a dollar or 80 cents.

I don't think so...it's hard to get the money.

Question 8

8. Do you agree or disagree with this statement: <i>"I favor basing all transit fare subsidies on income rather than age or disability."</i>	
A. Strongly Agree	0
B. Agree	1
C. Neutral	5
D. Disagree	6
E. Strongly Disagree	3

Comments:

I disagree. I got some poor friends and some rich friends. Everybody should pay the same.

I disagree. I thought about the age. Some kids don't have a job and if they are young and low income, that's a problem.

I strongly disagree. I don't think there should all different prices for the bus. I want one price and everyone pays it.

I am neutral. I can't decide.

Give a discount to disabled people. They need it.

Question 9

9. Which of the following should be a higher priority?	
A. Reducing tailpipe emissions and encouraging alternatives to driving, such as public transit, bicycling, walking, etc.	10
B. Reducing traffic congestion and improving traffic flow to make it easier to drive around the Bay Area	5

Comments:

I said A. I want to encourage people to reduce tailpipe emissions by taking the bus, biking and walking. If we pick B, it would be worse. We need to get people out of their cars.

I said B. I want to keep the cars moving.

I chose B because people won't walk or ride their bike because they are lazy.

Question 10

10. Which programs do you think are most effective to reduce the amount of emissions? (Select as many as you think will reduce emissions.)	
A. Subsidize purchase of newer/cleaner vehicles	11
B. Provide more/cheaper public transit	14
C. Develop awareness campaign to encourage people to reduce fossil fuel use	9
D. Build more bike paths and sidewalks	4
E. Funding incentives to cities to allow more development near transit	2
F. Support local traffic signal timing coordination	6

Comments:

I picked B because more people need to catch the bus.

A because we need to get it through people's heads that we need cleaner vehicles. B because more and cheaper transport because kids can't drive. C because we need to make people aware. D because we need to encourage to ride bikes. We need to start now.

D because many sidewalks are made of dirt.

F because I want people to stop for a longer period of time.

Question 11

11. How much of the \$30 billion dollar budget should be spent on maintaining local streets and roads, state highways, and public transit systems?	
A. Up to 25% (\$7.5 billion)	5
B. Up to 50% (\$15 billion)	3
C. Up to 75% (\$22.5 billion)	6
D. 100% (\$30 billion)	0

Comments:

I kept it the same.

I changed my mind to 75%.

Question 12

12. Thinking ahead to the year 2035, if you had \$30 billion, how much would you spend on each of the following projects to prepare for our regional transportation needs? To make it simpler, let's change the \$30 billion to \$30. Out of the \$30, please fill in the dollar amount you would spend for each area.	
A. Maintenance of existing roads and systems	\$83
B. Relief of traffic congestion	\$56
C. Provide transportation funds to cities that develop housing near transit	\$58
D. Provide access to public transit systems for all Bay Area residents	\$97
E. Reducing automobile emissions	\$97

Comments:

Look at sheets for specific numbers.

I want to spend 75% on new roads. I want new stuff.

Public transit is a little higher.

I want to maintain the roads and systems, reduce autos.

I want to reduce traffic.

Any bus I get on goes on the highway has a lot of traffic and I want to reduce that.

We need maintenance, I don't agree with building housing near transit, it needs to be equal. All people need to be able to ride transit...we also need to reduce cars and have more buses.

More transit, all should be able to ride the bus.

More maintenance and cleaner air.

